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Medal of Honor recipient and Iowa congressman inducted into Hall of Fame

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - The Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame today inducted a World War II Medal of Honor recipient and a decorated Vietnam War helicopter pilot who is now an Iowa congressman.

This year's honorees were students and instructors at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College. Medal of Honor recipient Charles W. Davis was a student and an instructor from 1943 to 1945. Rep. Leonard L. Boswell, D-Iowa, was a student from 1967 to 1968 and an instructor from 1974 to 1976.

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, announced the inductions of Davis and Boswell.

"We recognize and honor the accomplishments of these individuals as they join the ranks of previous inductees who distinguished themselves in service to our nation, names like Sheridan, Patton, Marshall, Eisenhower, MacArthur and Abrams," Caslen said.

Davis received the nation's highest military honor for leading a small team of soldiers against a machine gun position on Guadalcanal Island in 1943. He retired as a colonel and died in 1991.

His son, J. Kirk Davis of Kansas City, accepted the honor and donated his father's original Medal of Honor to the Hall of Fame for display.

Davis said he and his sister, Carol, debated about what to do with their father's Medal of Honor and then decided the Hall of Fame was the perfect place for it.

"Now our father's story can be kept alive, not by chance or by occasional publicity but rather by its own inherent power to touch, move and inspire so many soldiers and leaders, present as well as future, in the U.S. Army that he loved so much," Davis said.

For his Vietnam service, Boswell received the Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals. He retired as a lieutenant colonel, was elected to Congress in 1996 and is now serving his seventh term.

Boswell said he was honored by the induction and directed many of his remarks to the hundreds of Command and General Staff College students who attended the ceremony in their dress military uniforms. He said their studies will help them to teach and lead the military in the future.

"I want to salute you," Boswell said.

The Hall of Fame, which is in the Lewis and Clark Center, is composed of rows of shadow boxes with a photo and description of each inductee's contribution to the Army and Fort Leavenworth.